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**National Weather Service Honors Lloyd Larson
for
Outstanding Service to Volunteer Cooperative Weather Observer Program**

Recognizing more than 10 years of dedication, NOAA's National Weather Service has presented Lloyd Larson with a 10 Year Length-of-Service Award.

A 10 Year Length-of-Service Award was presented recently to Lloyd Larson, from Newport, Nebraska – for his exemplary service in the Cooperative Observer Program.

Lloyd Larson began taking weather observations on September 19th, 2003, at his location in Newport, in Rock County. Lloyd enters his data into an online database known as WxCoder. He measures daily maximum and minimum temperatures, at observation temperatures, and also daily precipitation, snowfall and snow depth.

Lloyd provides the National Weather Service with timely reports concerning inclement or severe weather. His knowledge of weather is a huge asset to his friends, family, nearby community and Rock County, Nebraska. Whether he is reporting straight line winds or large hail, or blizzard like conditions during the winter – his ability to convey the weather threats and information to the NWS is outstanding.

Mr. Larson provides his information to the Rock County Leader newspaper for publication.

Lloyd goes above the call of duty as a COOP observer by always providing timely information. His personality, eagerness and friendly nature are greatly appreciated.

"The weather enterprise is thankful for the work cooperative observers have done over the last century," said Ryan Knutsvig, meteorologist in charge of NOAA's North Platte National Weather Service office. "They are a very important part of the weather data collection and analysis process. The work of observers has led to a better understanding of our climate and, ultimately, led to better forecasts and warnings for the country. We cannot thank Lloyd Larson enough, for so many years of service to America."

The National Weather Service's Cooperative Weather Observer Program is a unique partnership between the National Weather Service and citizen volunteers in every U.S. state and territory. The cooperative observer program has given scientists and researchers continuous weather data since the program's inception in 1890. Today, more than 11,000 volunteer observers participate in the nationwide program to provide daily reports on temperature, precipitation and other weather factors such as

snow depth, river levels and soil temperature.

Long and continuous records provide an accurate picture of a locale's normal weather, and give climatologists and others a basis for predicting future trends. These data are invaluable for scientists studying floods, droughts and heat and cold waves. At the end of each month, observers mail their records to the National Climatic Data Center for publication in "Climatological Data" or "Hourly Precipitation Data."

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On the Web:

NOAA's National Weather Service, North Platte: <http://www.weather.gov/lbf>